

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03345 271837Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 271520Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3347
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3345

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, IS, GR, TU
SUBJECT: ISRAELI POSITION ON TURKISH EMBARGO

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG AFTERNOON
APRIL 27, I REFERRED TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ' RECENT VISIT
HERE AND INFORMED ELEKDAG OF THE REMARKS THAT HAD BEEN MADE
TO THE CONGRESSMAN BY AMBASSADOR SHMUEL DIVON, THE ISRAELI
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. ("AMBASSADOR" IS A COURTESY TITLE WIDELY
USED HERE. DIVON IS A FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA
WHOSE TECHNICAL TITLE AS HEAD OF THE ISRAELI MISSION IN ANKARA
IS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.)

2. I TOLD ELEKDAG THAT DIVON HAD BEEN VERY EMPHATIC IN HIS
REMARKS TO THE CONGRESSMAN TO THE EFFECT THAT ISRAEL'S INTERESTS
WOULD BE SERVED BY CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECENTLY
CONCLUDED US-TURKISH SECURITY AGREEMENT AND THAT CONVERSELY
ISRAEL'S INTERESTS WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED IN AN IMPORTANT
WAY IF CONGRESS REFUSED TO ENDORSE THIS AGREEMENT. DIVON HAD
ALSO STRESSED, I REPORTED, THAT REJECTION BY CONGRESS OF THE
NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) WOULD HAVE ADVERSE
CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO AND FOR AREA STABILITY. WHEN THE
CONGRESSMAN ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC REASON WHY THE REJECTION WOULD
BE CONTRARY TO ISRAEL'S INTERESTS, DIVON REPLIED THAT IT WOULD
MEAN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF US PRESENCE AND POWER IN THE EAST-
ERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND THAT THIS WAS NOT IN ISRAEL'S INTERESTS.

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3. I ALSO TOLD ELEKDAG THAT DIVON HAD STRESSED TO THE CONGRESSMAN THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING THESE VIEWS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. ELEKDAG SAID HE LIKED DIVON AND WAS GLAD TO HAVE THIS REPORT OF HIS SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSMAN.

5. COMMENT: DIVON HAD LATE EVENING MEETING WITH SOLARZ WHICH I HOSTED AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE APRIL 16. THIS TOOK PLACE FOLLOWING FONMIN'S DINNER FOR THE CONGRESSMAN AND WAS SET UP AT SOLARZ' REQUEST. DIVON WAS, IN FACT, VERY FORTHRIGHT AND ARTICULATE IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE CONGRESSMAN ABOUT THE UNWISDOM OF THE EMBARGO AND THE NEED TO ENDORSE THE NEW SECURITY AGREEMENT. DIVON SEEYTWHE SITUATION OUT HERE VERY MUCH AS I DO, AND HIS REMARKS TO THE CONGRESSMAN WERE, I THINK, USEFUL.

6. I REPORTED DIVON'S REMARKS TO ELEKDAG AT DIVON'S REQUEST. THE LATTER IS EXTREMELY WORRIED OVER THE RUMORS THAT CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN HIGH GOT CIRCLES THAT THE ISRAELI LOBBY IN WASHINGTON COOPERATED WITHE GREEK LOBBY WHEN THE EMBARGO WAS FIRST IMPOSED AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES HAS EQUIVOCATED, ATTEMPTING (SO THE ALLEGATION GOES HERE) TO CARRY WATER ON BOTH SHOULDERS, THAT IS TRYING TO APPEAR TO BE HELPFUL TO THE TURKS WITHOUT SEEMING TO BREAK WITH THE GREEK LOBBY.
MACOMBER

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